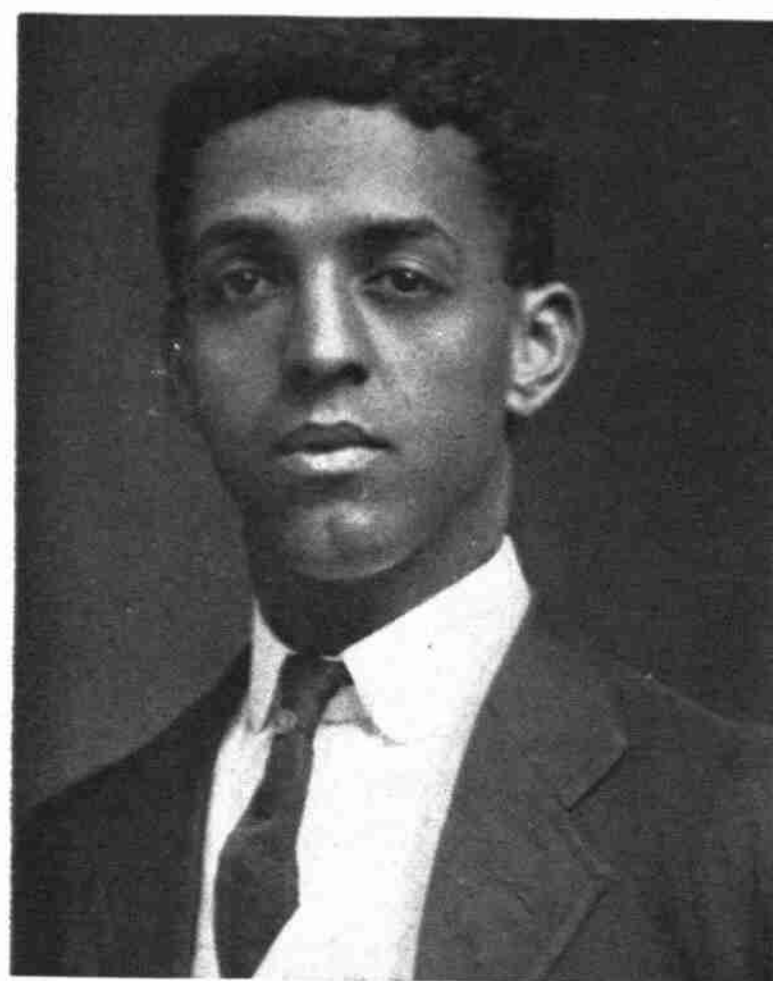


Agricultural and Mechanical College, Normal, Ala.

Walter S. Buchanan, President

THE Agricultural and Mechanical College, Normal, was founded in 1875 by W. H. Councill, who was its president until his death in April, 1909. In 1875, the annual appropriation was \$1,000, and there was a faculty of two teachers. The attendance was about sixty pupils. In 1878, the annual



W. S. BUCHANAN

appropriation was doubled, the teaching force increased, and the school began to attract general attention for the great good it was doing in preparing responsible teachers.

In 1882, through self-denial on the part of the principal and teachers, strict economy in expending appropriations, and by aid of the Peabody and Slater funds, and individual donations, a lot was purchased and buildings were

erected for school purposes. To accomplish this, the teachers taught for less than half salaries. The document which they drew up and signed, donating a portion of their salaries to the state for the benefit of the race, is a witness to their devotion to the education of the Negro. The property was deeded to the state of Alabama in trust for Negro education.

The school continued in this way until 1885, when the legislature of Alabama increased the annual appropriation to \$4,000, and made it the Industrial School for the Negroes of Alabama. In 1891, the legislature made the school a beneficiary of a fund granted by act of Congress to be used for the more complete endowment and the support of colleges for the benefit of agriculture. After this the property at Huntsville was sold and one hundred and eighty-two acres of land, located about four miles north of Huntsville, was purchased. On this land are twenty-two buildings,—laboratories, shops, library, reading room, and museum.

The school has property valued at \$75,000. It receives an annuity of \$4,000 from the state of Alabama, and an annuity of about \$11,000 from the general government. There were 25 Negro teachers and 326 students in 1908. Annual expenses, \$20,000.

The aim of the school is to afford young men and women of the Negro race an opportunity to acquire a college education in the arts and sciences, and at the same time acquire such technical skill as will fit them to engage in and teach the industries in a practical way.

The college embraces nine distinct schools,—school of mechanical arts, school of agriculture, scientific literary school, school of music, school of domestic science, school of business, school of Biblical literature, normal school, preparatory school, and training school.

The Carnegie Library Building was erected at a cost of \$12,000. There are biological, chemical, and physical laboratories. The machine shops are supplied with two engines of twenty horse-power each, and a seven horse-power gasoline engine.

There is a thorough course of Bible study continuing through the year, and a special Bible course for ministers.

Religious training is greatly emphasized at this institution. Chapel devotions are held each evening, when all students and teachers are expected to be present. Every Sunday morning, service is held, at which a regular sermon is delivered. A program, religious or ethical in character, is rendered every Sunday evening.

The Young Men's Christian Association is a student organization, active in its field and helpful in the daily life of the students. It maintains regular religious meetings throughout the year. The Young Women's Christian Association is a similar organization for young women. Bible bands have been organized for a systematic study of the Bible among the younger students. Attention is given to physical culture, and the young men of the institution are under military discipline.

More than six hundred of the graduates of this institution are at work in the schools of the South, and many times this number are successfully engaged in the industrial pursuits of life. Wherever these graduates are found, they are conspicuous for their force, industry, and capabilities as leaders of the people. They are strong advocates of temperance and moral reform among their people.